1	2	3	4	5	6
		ORISSA			
22.	Balimela	Machkund	1972	3610.53	7.83
23.	Hirakud	Mahanadi	1957	8105.00	24.17
		PUNJAB			
24.	Bhakra	Sutlej	1958	9868.00	14.09
		TAMIL NADU			
25.	Mettur/Stanley	Cauvery	1934	2708.76	19.69
26.	Vaigai	Vaigai	1958	194.79	11.50
		UTTAR PRADESH			
27.	Ramganga	Ichari	1974	2449.60	3.23

Draft National Water Policy

2513. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a draft National Water Policy has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether and to what extent certain views on ownership of water reportedly finanlised in the two-day 'Jal Sammelan' held recently at New Delhi under the aegis of Tarun Bharat Sangh, a Non-Governmental Organisation and others has been accepted and incorporated in the draft policy; and

(d) the details of views of other Non-Governmental Organisations/ experts etc. ascertained and incorporated in the draft policy and the specifies of those which have been left out with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy which was originally adopted in 1987 has been revised in view of the issues/ emerging challenges during the last 14 years in water resources sector. The draft (revised) National Water Policy was considered by the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) under the

Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in its 5th Meeting held on 1st April, 2002 wherein the (revised) policy has been unanimously adopted by the Council.

(c) National Water Policy provides a broad frame-work as well as a road map for water resources development and its management in the country and is not a statutory instrument. The issue of ownership of water, which is a legal issue, has to be addressed through a legislation, which according to Entry 17 of List II of the Seventh Scheduled of the Constitution falls within the jurisdiction of the State Governments.

(d) National Water Policy is an outcome of wide consultation process. The First draft of the National Water Policy is prepared by the National Water Board where all the States and Union Territories are represented by their Chief Secretaries and which is chaired by the Union Secretary of Water Resources. The draft policy is first discussed in the NWRC, where Chief Ministers of all the States, Lt. Governors/Administrators of all Union Territories and Union Ministers of Central Ministries dealing with water are the members, and then adopted. In addition, wide consultations at various levels bring in views of various experts from within and outside the Government.

Government of India had constituted a Commission for "Integrated Water Resources Development Plan" in 1996. As part of the consultation process, the Commission organized four regional level seminars, wherein not only the officials from the State Governments were present but also the professionals and experts from outside the Government, the professional bodies, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the water resources sector were also present and participated in the discussions. In addition, the challenges before the water sector are discussed at various forum. The non-governmental professional organizations like Indian Water Resources Society, India Water Works Association, Institution of Engineers discuss various aspects of water resources development and management in details where not only the engineers but also the social scientists, economists, representatives of the people and the

voluntary organizations take part. The recommendations of these workshops and seminars also form the basic input for the formulation of the policies.

The majority of suggestions by the NGOs are in the form of mechanism to be worked out for implementation of the provisions of the policy. Certain issues raised by the NGOs that are either outside the ambit of the National Water Policy or are contradictory and represent a minority view such as: defining the rights on water, relaxation of pollution norms for certain activities, pricing of all inputs to agriculture sector, taxing of exports on water intensive crops, application of the recommendation of the Pay Commission regarding improvement of efficiency and accountability of irrigation departments and preferring migration of people from water short areas instead of bringing water to such areas by inter-basin transfer and, as such, are not included in the National Water Policy-2002.

It is also pertinent to point out that the National Water Policy is finally adopted by the National Water Resources Council where all the States and Union Territories are represented and unless the recommendations are acceptable to the NWRC it cannot be incorporated in the Policy.

Flood and irrigation problems of the Southern areas

2514. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests made by various quarters to link all the Southern rivers to solve the flood and irrigation problems of the region;

(b) whether Government have come to any conclusion in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not making a beginning in this direction to put permanently at rest the flood and irrigation problems of the South?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) Central Government continue to get